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RURAL AREAS
 DEVELOPMENT

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GWINNETT COUNTY IS CATCHING UP WITH ITS FUTURE

CURRENT SERIAL RECORDS

Gwinnett County, Georgia leadership, with assistance from one of the first Resource Conservation and Development authorizations in the Nation, is well on the way toward creating a Community of Tomorrow.

To date, 29 new industries representing a gross expenditure of over \$31,000,000 have provided 2,700 new jobs in the county.

Twelve community recreation areas have been installed.

Three new private golf courses have been built and one improved.

Two youth camps have been expanded and improved.

Money derived from RC&D forestry measures is expected to amount to \$3,500,000 with intangible benefits in wildlife, recreation and improved hydrologic conditions.

Under the guidance of a land-use plan, the county installed 130 miles of water mains to the areas designated as urban and semi-urban. Another 8-1/2 miles of 16-inch water main and a million-gallon water storage tank now serve the industrial areas.

Some 400 owners of agricultural land were assisted in developing conservation plans based on the capability of the land and its optimum uses. Another 400 were assisted in revising plans.

In addition, four floodwater retarding structures were completed, and thirty miles of channels improved to further reduce flooding.

Because more than 300 tons of silt per acre were eroding each year from unprotected roadbanks, nearly 300 miles of such roadbanks were planted to grasses and legumes last year and another 300 miles this year.

WATERSHED PROJECTS MEAN PAYROLLS AND PROTECTION

The Muddy Fork Watershed Project in Illinois centers on the development of two large multi-purpose dams. It is solving a water supply crisis for two communities; saving property downstream from extensive annual flood damages; improving fish and wildlife habitat and recreation facilities; and bolstering business volume and attracting industry.

During the past fiscal year, 46 such watershed projects were completed across the nation, which brings the total number of such projects to 205 in 47 states.

To date, 800 communities have small watershed projects, either completed or in some instances, just being installed. Over half of them benefit the local people in as many ways as does the project at Muddy Fork.

Work on small watersheds, authorized by Public Law 566, during fiscal 1968 produced these benefits (at least half of which accrued to residents of low-income areas):

- * \$27.5 million in flood damages prevented
- * \$17.1 million added to local payrolls through economic development
- * 5,700 new jobs created
- * facilities for 1.2 million annual visitor-days of recreation
- * 11 new reservoirs that serve 78,000 people in 11 communities.

FOUR CORNER REGIONAL TAP PRESENTS FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION

How does one summarize 92 contiguous counties in four states of about 189 million acres, populated by less than 2 million people? The Four Corners Regional Technical Action Panel, serving an area covering much of Utah, Colorado, Arizona, and New Mexico, has done just that in their recently published report: "Rural Areas Development Framework Plan...for a Program of Action."

The 26-page report not only tells it as it is concerning water resources, land use planning, farmland, recreation, woodland and mineral resources, but explores the social service needs of the area, its industrial potential and progress and potential for community expansion and development.

A triumph of simplicity, it should help to guide the Four Corners Regional Planning Commission in utilizing the accelerated assistance of "going programs" plus such new programs as may be established.

SUCSESSES IN RURAL AMERICA DOCUMENTED

Two booklets recently published by agencies of the USDA carry short rural development success stories.

* "Community Resource Development in Action," published by the Federal Extension Service, summarizes a cross-section of progress being made by many

counties and communities throughout the nation. These success stories were part of last year's progress report of Extension work in Community Resource Development in which local Cooperative Extension Workers were actively involved.

* "Rural America Growth Country," published by the Rural Electrification Administration, presents an assortment of fine examples of progress in rural industrialization as well as recreational and resource development.

A limited number of single copy requests can be filled through the RAD Newsletter.

NEW YEARBOOK SHOWS STRONG INFLUENCE OF RESEARCH ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT

The recently published "Yearbook of Agriculture, 1968," entitled "Science For Better Living" gives abundant illustration of the impact research is having on rural areas development.

Agricultural research produced results in rural America that pay off in protected and expanded natural resources, food and fiber production efficiency, insect and disease control, and all'round improved, rural-produced, consumer goods. It follows that rural income is a prime beneficiary of research as well.

Of special rural development interest among the 1968 yearbook articles are: "Faster Growing Trees Are Boon to the South," "Rebuilding Rural America -- An Ozarks Case History," and "Creating a Big Industry to Save Small Towns."

Copies of "Science for Better Living," the 1968 Yearbook of Agriculture, may be obtained for \$3 each from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has no copies of the Yearbook for public distribution or sale.

JOB RISE MARKS PROGRESS AT LITTLE RIVER

By anyone's measure Little River County, Arkansas, is big in its capacity to progress. A rural renewal pilot project begun in 1964, it continues to experience steady economic growth. One indicator of this growth is the increase in the number of jobs in the county since the inception of the project. Here is the box score:

- * 966 new jobs were created in 77 new or expanded enterprises with a payroll of \$6.5 million annually.
- * three new major industries were established providing 476 new jobs.
- * 22 other new or expanded enterprises provide 105 new jobs.
- * 9 new businesses in new buildings provide 20 jobs.
- * three industries have been expanded that provide 215 new jobs.
- * 43 new businesses in new buildings provide 180 new jobs.

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HOW MANY COMMUNITIES WITHOUT WATER AND SEWAGE FACILITIES?

Of 56,000 United States communities with more than 25 inhabitants in 1963, almost 35,000 -- representing 40 million people -- lacked service from privately or publicly owned water facilities. Furthermore, 44,000 communities were without public sewage facilities in 1962. By last December, Federal assistance programs were underway to provide community water systems for an estimated 1.5 million of these people and sewage disposal facilities for more than 2 million.

A fairly technical study, on the number, location, and size of these communities and the degree to which Federal assistance programs have provided water and sewage disposal, was recently published by the Economic Research Service.

Entitled, "Status of Water and Sewage Facilities in Communities Without Public Systems," it sheds light on a hitherto little known subject. The report will help to guide Federal programs initiated to assist communities in obtaining adequate facilities.

A limited number of single copies are available through the RAD Newsletter upon request.